

**Workplace Safety and Insurance
Appeals Tribunal**

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**Tribunal d'appel de la sécurité professionnelle
et de l'assurance contre les accidents du travail**

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Ontario

Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal

Quarterly Production and Activity Report

April 1 to June 30, 2017

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Caseload Reduction: Progress

The Tribunal is working to reduce the caseload and improve the time to hearing and appeal resolution. This work is showing positive results. At the end of the second quarter 2017, the active inventory totaled 7,150 appeals. This is a 12% decrease from the active inventory at the end of 2016.

Positive trends in Q2 2017:

- the active case inventory declined; and
- the time to first offered hearing date declined.

What to expect in the second half of 2017:

- a continued focus on reasoned decisions;
- the project to introduce video-conferencing continues;
- new adjudicators joining the WSIAT team;
- a review of the reconsideration process to reduce wait times; and
- an increase in the number of hearing dates offered in Hamilton

Timelines:

- With the decline in the active inventory, timelines to hearing are forecast to continue to improve.
- During the first half of 2017, the time to first offered hearing date was 17.6 months (from the time an appeal is confirmed hearing ready).

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation as the Tribunal works to reduce the timelines to hearing and resolution.

If there are questions about timelines in a particular case, please contact the Tribunal's Call Centre at 416-314-8800.

Representatives are asked to avoid late or last minute adjournment requests and withdrawals. Providing sufficient notice of concerns with a hearing date enables the Tribunal to reallocate adjudicator resources to other appeals and effectively use adjudicator time.

As an adjudicative agency in Ontario, and the final level of appeal in the WSI system, the Tribunal focusses on quality adjudication and reasoned decisions, supported by strong process, developed and implemented consistent with the rules of natural justice.

Case Management Summary

At the end of the second quarter 2017, the active inventory totaled 7,150 appeals. The active inventory at the end of the first quarter of 2017 was 7,657 appeals.

Incoming Appeals

Incoming appeals for Q2-2017 numbered 842; of these, 732 were appeals from WSIB decisions, and 110 appellants advised they were ready to proceed to hearing following a period of inactive status. In 2016, incoming appeals averaged 936.5 per quarter.

The weekly average of hearing-ready appellants in Q2-2017 is 60. This figure excludes cases reactivated from the Inactive status. In 2016, the weekly average of hearing-ready appellants was 72, excluding reactivations.

Dispositions

Dispositions in Q2-2017 totaled 1,386. This includes 407 dispositions in the pre-hearing areas resulting from dispute-resolution (ADR) efforts, and 979 after-hearing dispositions; of the after-hearing dispositions, 951 followed from Tribunal decisions.

OIC Adjudicator Roster

During Q2-2017, 1 new part time Vice-Chair; 1 new full time Member and 3 new part time Members were appointed to the Tribunal. At the end of June, there were 69 Vice-Chairs.

Inactive Inventory

At the end of Q2-2017, the inactive inventory was 1,705 cases. The inactive inventory at the end of the first quarter in 2017 was 1,694 cases.

Decisions Released within 120 Days

For the year to date ending Q2-2017, 95% of final decisions were released within 120 days. Comparisons to earlier years can be found in section F: Production Charts.

Timelines

At the end of the second quarter, the work to reduce the caseload is resulting in progress to improve the time to hearing demonstrated in the median time to first offered hearing date.

At the end of June, the median time to first offered hearing date was 17.6 months; in the last quarterly report, the median time was reported as 18.9 months. The goal for the caseload reduction period is to reduce the time to hearing to 8 months.

The Tribunal also monitors the percent of dispositions achieved within 9 months, and includes 12 and 18 months in the activity report to enable the community to monitor progress to improve timelines. In the first half of 2017, there was modest improvement in the percent of cases resolved in 9 and 12 months.

The Notice of Appeal Process

The Tribunal's Notice of Appeal (NOA) process places responsibility in the hands of the parties and representatives to advance a case, and requires appellants to confirm their readiness to proceed (by filing a Confirmation of Appeal) with their appeals within two

years of completing the NOA. The notice (NOA) inventory includes "dormant" cases that are tracked as part of the Tribunal's case management. Many are expected to close as abandoned appeals after a two-year period expires.

At the end of Q2-2017, the notice inventory included 1,170 dormant cases, the active inventory totaled 7,150 cases, and the inactive inventory totaled 1,705 cases.

Production Tables and Charts

A. Active Inventory End of Quarter

Period	Active Inventory
Q1-2016	9300
Q2-2016	8938
Q3-2016	8650
Q4-2016	8160
Q1-2017	7657
Q2-2017	7150

B. Incoming Appeals

Period	Incoming Appeals
Q1-2016	969
Q2-2016	954
Q3-2016	920
Q4-2016	903
Q1-2017	851
Q2-2017	842

C. Dispositions

Period	Dispositions – Total	Pre-hearing	After Hearing
Q1-2016	1217	402	815
Q2-2016	1323	420	903
Q3-2016	1203	348	855
Q4-2016	1324	404	920
Q1-2017	1373	437	936
Q2-2017	1386	407	979

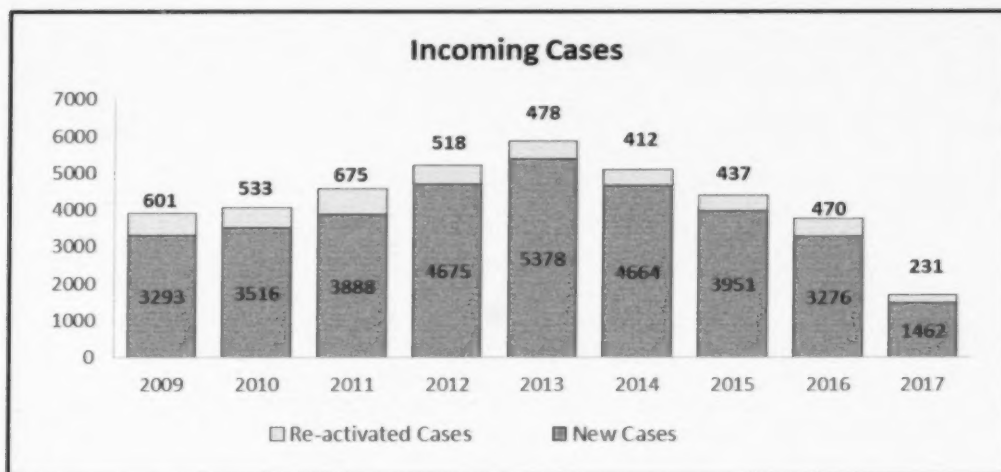
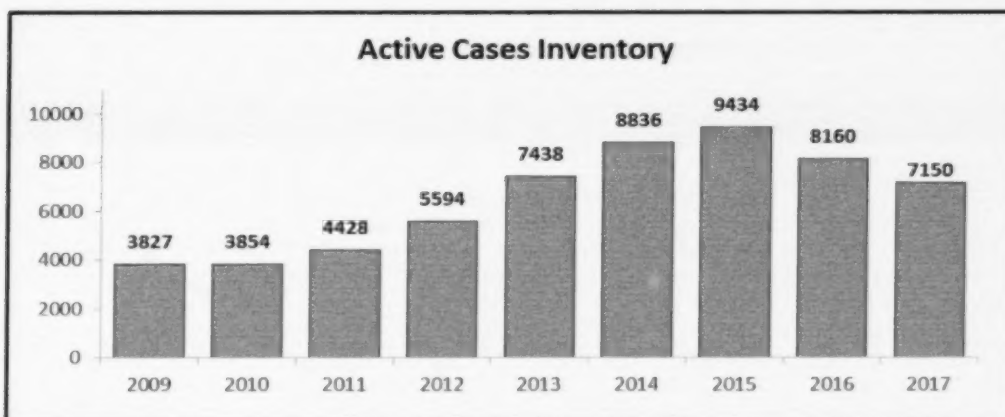
D. Inactive Inventory

Period	Inactive Inventory
Q1-2016	1756
Q2-2016	1784
Q3-2016	1717
Q4-2016	1683
Q1-2017	1694
Q2-2017	1705

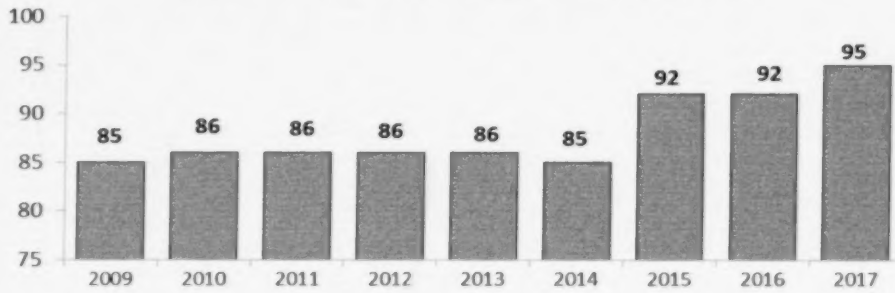
E. Notice of Appeal (Dormant cases)

Period	Total Dormant	Change from Previous Quarter
Q1-2016	1159	-114
Q2-2016	1152	-7
Q3-2016	1157	5
Q4-2016	1226	69
Q1-2017	1207	-19
Q2-2017	1170	-37

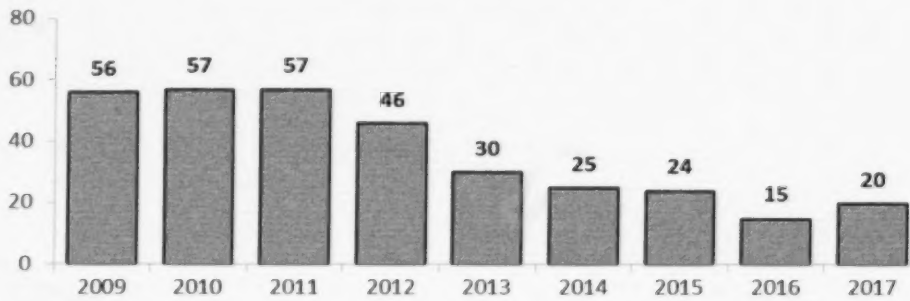
F. Production Charts: From 2009 to 2017



Final Decisions % Released Within 120 Days



Percent Disposed of Within 9 Months



Percent Disposed of Within 12 Months

